

funding to the FY 2011 levels, which was approved by the House recently. However, I am concerned that this amendment reduced funding for climate change programs to restore GLRI funding even as climate change will have an enormous impact on the Great Lakes, and the citizens and industries that live, work, and recreate in the region. We must continue to work together to keep these waters "Great."

I also note the provisions in the bill that would undermine the work done since passage of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts to get and keep pollution out of our air and water, and as a result, out of our bodies.

The bill also included a provision that would cease listings of species for protection under the Endangered Species, a radical proposal that would do much harm. The majority is declaring "open season" on endangered species across our country. I was glad to vote to remove that harmful provision.

We have a responsibility to help get our Nation's finances in order. But we also have a responsibility to maintain our Nation's irreplaceable resources. What we don't keep clean today will cost us much more to clean up tomorrow. That's what the brownfields and Superfund sites we still are cleaning up today tell me.

We don't want to leave our children and grandchildren a legacy of debt or deficits. Good. But let's also not leave those same children and grandchildren a legacy of closed beach and no swimming signs, of "code red" poor air quality days, and of increasing sewage overflows into local bodies of water. I oppose this bill and will vote no on it.

HONORING SAM LESANTE, SR.

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Sam Lesante, Sr., the CEO of Sam-Son Productions, for his continued dedication to charitable causes throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. A philanthropist, Lesante has been a pivotal part of securing funding for charities such as the United Way, Hazleton Blind Association, URS, and many others.

Sam Lesante has been shining the television spotlight on these worthy causes for

more than 30 years. Having chaired many telethons for research related organizations including the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation and the Children's Miracle Network, he developed a sense for how to best portray the true needs of these groups. Sixteen years ago Lesante began his own production company, Sam-Son Productions. Through "The Sam Lesante Show" and other programs, he has continued to bring much-needed attention to lesser-known—and therefore lesser-funded—local charities, in addition to the larger foundations.

Today, Sam Lesante is furthering his efforts once again by partnering with the Hazleton Standard-Speaker to host Media Night in Hazleton. The focus of Media Night is to bring awareness to local organizations that are working to make the Hazleton Area and its surroundings a better place to call home. It is because of the tireless efforts of people like Sam Lesante that charities are able to thrive in an otherwise struggling economy. He has a special way of bringing out the best of an organization and making people excited about it.

CONGRATULATING STEPHEN MICHAEL SCHELLING JR. FOR THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Stephen Michael Schelling Jr. for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country, and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Stephen has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

COMMENDING THE SERVICE OF GARY JOHNSON TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gary Johnson who recently retired from the National Park Service with 36 years of outstanding service to our mountain community.

After four years of service to our country in the U.S. Air Force, Mr. Johnson took a summer job in 1975 with the National Park Service with the Blue Ridge Parkway in Asheville, North Carolina. One year later, he graduated from the landscape architecture program at Virginia Tech with a BLA degree and was rehired by the Parkway. In addition to working with the Blue Ridge Parkway, Mr. Johnson has worked on planning and construction projects in other parks such as Natchez Trace Parkway, Big Bend National Park and Guilford Courthouse. Mr. Johnson has also written and lectured on the subjects of scenery conservation, cultural landscape management, historical parkway preservation, goal-driven and strategic planning and tourism planning.

Mr. Johnson brought unmatched passion and expertise during his many years as a skilled planner with the Blue Ridge Parkway. Mr. Johnson authored the Guidebook for the Blue Ridge Parkway Scenery Conservation System that outlined his plan to preserve the Parkway. He also developed the Blue Ridge Parkway's project management and computerized tracking system. The system proved to be so effective that it was adopted by the National Park Service. On March 17, 2011, Mr. Johnson was awarded one of the four Appleman-Judd-Lewis Awards for Excellence in Cultural Resource Management from the National Park Service Director.

Mr. Johnson has shown extraordinary dedication to our community and has had an indelible impact on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The service that Mr. Johnson has contributed to Western North Carolina and the National Park System is truly inspiring and I am proud to represent him. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the exceptional career and service of Mr. Gary Johnson.